

To: EOC Public Information[EOC_Public_Information@epa.gov]; Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
From: Harrison, Melissa
Sent: Wed 8/26/2015 6:18:16 PM
Subject: Fwd: questions regarding gold king cleanup

Will your teams work on a response for this reporter? Here's what we prepared on Superfund for today's press call. Thanks!!

EPA has and will continue to work with our partners and stakeholders to determine the best path forward in addressing mining impacts in the Animas River watershed. The 1986 amendment of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, better known as Superfund) contains public participation provisions that direct the EPA to engage communities affected by actual and potential Superfund NPL sites about cleanup decisions, including the decision to list a site. The Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) identifies the most serious sites that the EPA has designated to be eligible for long-term cleanup. When the EPA proposes to add a site to the National Priorities List (NPL), the Agency publishes a public notice about its intention in the Federal Register. The EPA also issues a public notice through the local media to notify the community, so interested members of the community can comment on the proposal. The EPA must respond to the comments it receives. After consideration of those comments and weighing other factors, the Agency may proceed with adding a site to the NPL. EPA has been requested to brief the community stakeholders on the Superfund process – that will occur soon.

Melissa Harrison
Press Secretary
EPA
Office: (202) 564-8421
Mobile: (202) 697-0208
Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov

Begin forwarded message:

From: "David O. Williams" <davido@realvail.com>
Date: August 26, 2015 at 2:13:41 PM EDT
To: <harrison.melissa@epa.gov>
Subject: questions regarding gold king cleanup

Hi Melissa, David O. Williams here, writing a story on potential remediation efforts at the Gold King Mine near Silverton, where town officials are seeking federal disaster relief funding but have resisted Superfund designation -- in part because they feel there's no funding in the Superfund and they would be back of the line in terms of national priorities.

Critics of the EPA are threatening lawsuits, decrying a lack of information and even

alluding to the possibility that the EPA caused the spill on purpose. Local officials I've talked to say that political posturing is not productive and that they hope to work with EPA on a viable long-term solution.

However, without Superfund money what can the EPA realistically do to clean up such a complex orphaned mine and other like it around the West?

Is there hope in the agency that this will revive talk of Congress reinstating the polluters pay tax that funded so many cleanups from 1980 to 2003, including the Eagle Mine here in my back yard in Eagle County?

Thanks for any perspective you can provide.

--

David O. Williams

Real Vail

970.376.6495

@DavidOWilliams

davido@realvail.com